

**HOWARD COUNTY ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 21, 2015**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chinewe Adetula, Mary Affeldt, Barbara Allan, Jennifer Van Blarcom , Mark Donovan, Chris Robinson, Robert Ehrhardt, Jennifer Facticeau, Kassy Hargadon-Zester, Darrell Horney, Neil Gwinn, Jack Kavanagh, Sophie Lovering, Bruce MacDonald, Carol Robinson, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Meghan Skaggs, Katie Turner, Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Linda Zumbrun, Liam Donovan, and Heather Moore.

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:** The meeting was called to order at 5:16 p.m. Joan welcomed the board and guests and everyone introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The October 21, 2015 Agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The September 16, 2015 Minutes were approved.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Joan reported that Carl DeLorenzo from the County Executive's Office was unable to attend this meeting to discuss the Medicaid Reimbursement/Accreditation issue raised at the September meeting.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Update provided by Roe

Roe informed the board that 27 individuals have been trained/certified at the Overdose Response Program trainings year to date in FY16 by the Howard County Health Department. The board was informed of Overdose Response Program trainings scheduled in the upcoming months: Monday, November 16, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. and Monday, December 14, 2015 at 8:00 A.M. at the Howard County Health Department.

Roe also informed the board that COMAR 10.63.01 Community Behavioral Health Programs is still pending to be open for public comment on October 30, 2015 and may be open for public comment for 6 months. Roe suggested the board provide comments regarding positive and negative element of the document. This COMAR, if passed, will require community outpatient programs to become accredited. The accreditation requirement is believed to limit access to care given the fact that many providers may not seek accreditation due to cost and demand on staff. Dr. Michael Finegan, a member of the Maryland Emergency Heroin and Opioid Task Force drafted talking points (shared with the board) and provided testimony to the Maryland Regulatory Reform Commission including the Lt. Governor regarding the impact of accreditation requirements.

The Board discussed their thoughts regarding drafting a letter to the County Executive from the board to voice concern for the pending accreditation requirements. It was also discussed that individuals could draft personal letters to the County Executive on the subject.

**HC DRUGFREE PREVENTION/EDUCATION/OPIOID UPDATE:** Update provided by Joan

HC DrugFree and the Howard County Police Department partnered at the annual 50+ Expo in October to promote the County's permanent medication collection boxes. The event was a good opportunity to

educate the attendees about opioid misuse and proper disposal of medications as well as provide a paper survey asking if attendees were aware of the Howard County *In the Know* campaign. Approximately 50% of survey takers said they knew of the campaign.

Also in October, Attorney Jason Shapiro and Joan talked about drugs and alcohol to two classes of seniors at Howard High School. The goal was to help teens make better decisions by hearing real cases and legal situations. The program was well-received by staff and students.

Joan and Roe have been busy coordinating what will be our first Overdose Fatality Review Team meeting later this month. This team will examine overdoses here in the County.

Joan expressed concern about the ongoing delay by the Behavioral Health Administration to approve the County's total FY16 opioid budget. To date, HC DrugFree has received no FY16 Opioid funding.

On Saturday, October 17, Joan attended the *Scope of Pain training for Safe and Competent Opioid Prescribing*. The training targeted physicians, but Joan found it to be very informative. All information presented was consistent with the opioid misuse prevention strategies HC DrugFree is leading in Howard County. These strategies include HC DrugFree moving forward with more closely working with County doctors and other prescribers. The *Scope of Pain* training topics included: Assessing Chronic Pain and Opioid Misuse Risks, Initiating (or Continuing) Opioid Therapy Safely, Assessing & Managing Medication Taking Behavior, and a panel discussion with questions/answers.

Joan informed the board that the Howard County Board of Education (BOE) declared October as *Substance Abuse Prevention Month* and HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council is creating a thank you card to be presented to the BOE at a future meeting.

At the September meeting, Joan brought samples of the opioid education *In the KNOW* counter signs being distributed across the County by HC DrugFree. Recently, she saw one on the signs at a Giant pharmacy. Joan asked the board to look for the displays and let her know what pharmacies and medical offices are supporting this effort.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

President Obama spoke earlier today in West Virginia. He was joined by the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Secretary of Health and Human Services, the mother of an addict, a young person in recovery, law enforcement and others. The message was one of hope and again, totally consistent to the prevention efforts HC DrugFree is leading in the County.

Barbara shared about both the *Unite to Face Addiction* rally and the *FedUP!* rally. FedUP! had a good turnout even with the bad weather. Unite organizers predicted a much higher turnout, but latest estimates reported 30,000 people in attendance. They discussed using Naloxone, the Good Samaritan Law, access to treatment, Advocacy with Anonymity, etc. The press coverage the following Monday, however, was silent on both events. Naloxone training was brought up and that we need to bring in the right people for the trainings. Families, friends, schools, etc.

Drug Court graduation is scheduled for 4:30 P.M. on Wednesday, November 18 at the Ellicott City District Court. Joan encouraged new ADAAB members who had never been to a Drug/DUI Court graduation as well as all board members to attend. The board agreed to move the November 18

meeting to the Court House. Robert offered to secure a meeting room for the 5:15 P.M. meeting. Joan will forward the graduation invitation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next ADAAB meeting will be November 18, 2015 at 5:15 P.M. at the Howard County District Court on Courthouse Drive in Ellicott City.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M.